

News from Assemblymember

Joe Coto

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Coto Legislation for Unemployed Becomes Law

Sacramento - The Governor signed **AB 23 X3, (Chapter 22) and AB 29 X3 (Chapter 23)** into law. These bills authored by Assemblymember Joe Coto (D-San Jose), adopt the necessary changes to California law to qualify the state for up to \$3.8 billion in federal economic stimulus funding.

AB 23 of the 3rd Extraordinary Session authorizes 20 weeks of additional federal Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits for persons who have exhausted their UI benefits. These benefits are paid entirely from federal funds and are made available by the new federal law, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), commonly referred to as the federal economic stimulus package.

AB 29 of the 3rd Extraordinary Session authorizes earnings in recent months to count in determining eligibility for unemployment benefits (known as an "alternative base period"). This change will conform to the recent federal ARRA law and will bring \$839 million in federal funds to California.

Assemblymember Coto said, "I am pleased to report that the Governor has approved legislation to help 469,000 people who need unemployment compensation to meet living expenses." He also noted, "At a time when 2 million people are unemployed in our state and we are experiencing a 10.5% unemployment rate, it is vital that we obtain federal dollars to help unemployed families and communities throughout our state. AB 23 X3 will bring a vital **\$3 billion** to California in unemployment benefits and AB 29 X3 will bring another needed **\$839 million** to our state."

In February 2009, there were 1,950,000 people unemployed in California and, of these, 768,762 people received regular unemployment compensation in California. Another 259,903 people were certified to receive the federal emergency unemployment benefits in the state in the latest reporting period. The Employment Development Department estimates that next month (April 2009), 97,048 people will exhaust their unemployment compensation benefits in California and will become eligible for federal extended benefits if this state law (AB 23 X3) is enacted. Subsequently, another 50,000 individuals each month will exhaust their unemployment benefits without this state legislation.

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